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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1995 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present herewith a letter dated 26 June 1995 from my Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to you (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 26 June 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

I ask the members of the Security Council to excuse my personification of recent events, but it may be useful to do so in order to give some perspective to the situation.

Since I entered Sarajevo on Thursday evening, 24 civilians have been murdered in Sarajevo, and, of course, the existence of those that survive is most marginalized.

Yesterday, five children were murdered by the shelling of the Karadzic Serbs. The names of the victims and the years of their birth were Ljiljana Janjic (1983), Sibela Zimic (1985), Nihad Efica (1979), Adnan Krzilo (1982) and Amina Pajevic. A further 18 civilians, including 7 children, were wounded just yesterday. Today, at least 2 more civilians were murdered and an undetermined number were wounded. I still do not have the names of those murdered today, but it is important to accept that each number has a name and life associated with it.

I am actually surprised by how intermittent the shelling and sniping is. I first thought it was a sign of restraint, but then the pattern became apparent. There are hours of calm when the population is encouraged to believe that the streets are safe. Then, all of a sudden, a quick succession of mortars is concentrated on one end of town. The civilians all scurry for shelter, except, of course, for the dead and badly wounded.

Slowly over the succeeding few hours, calm once again begins to prevail. Once again civilians come out from under cover, some to carry water, get bread or otherwise attempt to sustain an existence. Children are especially drawn out as they become restless, anxious to play with friends and pass otherwise long hours of no school and little to do. Then, the shells from the hills hit once again, sometimes with no success in finding victims and other times claiming scores of them.

This most brutal game of the prey and the hunter cannot be explained in the context of warfare. The objectives of the patient hunter are not military targets but civilians; more specifically, the terrorization of a civilian population and its town. The terrorist up on the hills is confident that he will always be able to outwait his human prey and draw him out into the open, and he has little fear of a response or justice.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his letter of 23 June 1995 to Mr. Willy Claes, the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has confirmed the theoretical extinguishing of the "exclusion zone". This, and previous communications by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, have also confirmed the irrelevance of the "rapid reaction capability" in addressing the welfare of the civilians of

Sarajevo and of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I believe that we all understand the natural conclusions to be drawn from this set of facts, whose consequences are so evident on the ground here in Sarajevo.

And please, let us not debate about the failures of peace-keeping while war persists or the need to preserve the integrity of the United Nations and its principles. It is terrorism targeting civilians that is the root cause of the failures, and neither the United Nations nor international law can be sustained if terrorism is allowed to persist, especially under the label of "war between two parties".

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister for Foreign Affairs